

Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

AMY ✓
TCA 10/12/09
WMK
SAH
WEC

File
Mueller - 2009
(Hamilton)

Referral Report

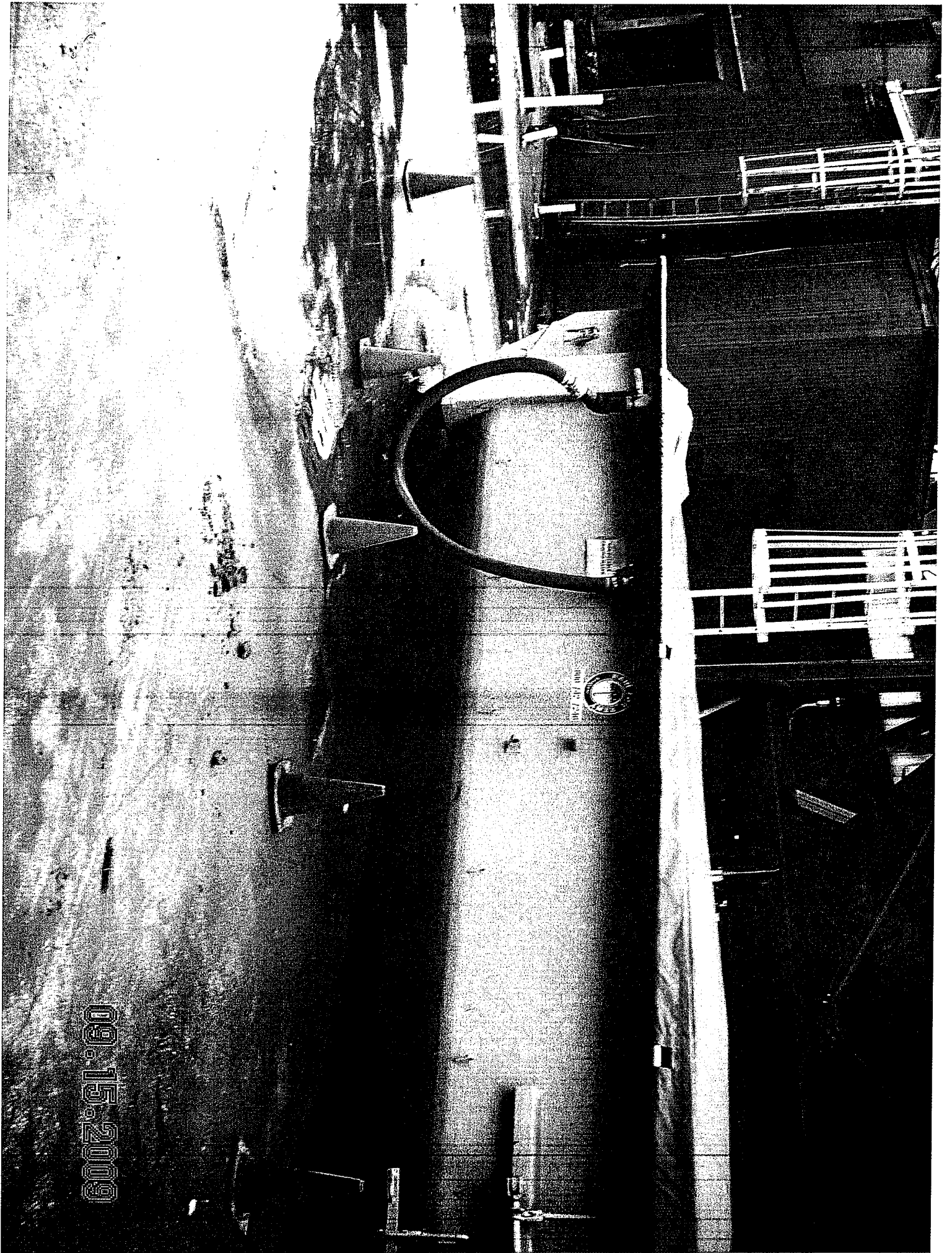
Wed Sep 16, Wednesday 11:14AM

Reporting ID	454723	Previous Activity	313116899	Referral Number		
Establishment Information	Establishment Name	Mueller Company		Employer ID		
	Site Address	1401 Mueller Ave Chattanooga, TN 37406		City Code	0400	County Code 065
		Site Phone	(423)698-8811	Site Fax:	(423)624-6784	
	Mailing Address	1401 Mueller Ave Chattanooga, TN 37406				
		Mailing Address Phone		Fax:		
Industry & Ownership	Type of Business	Foundry	Primary SIC	3321	No. of Employees	450
	Ownership	Private Sector				
Source	Referred By	TOSHA - Health	Date Received	09-15-09		
	Source or Contact (Name, Location, Affiliation, Telephone Number): CSHO - Z1200 (423)634-6424					
Referral Classification						

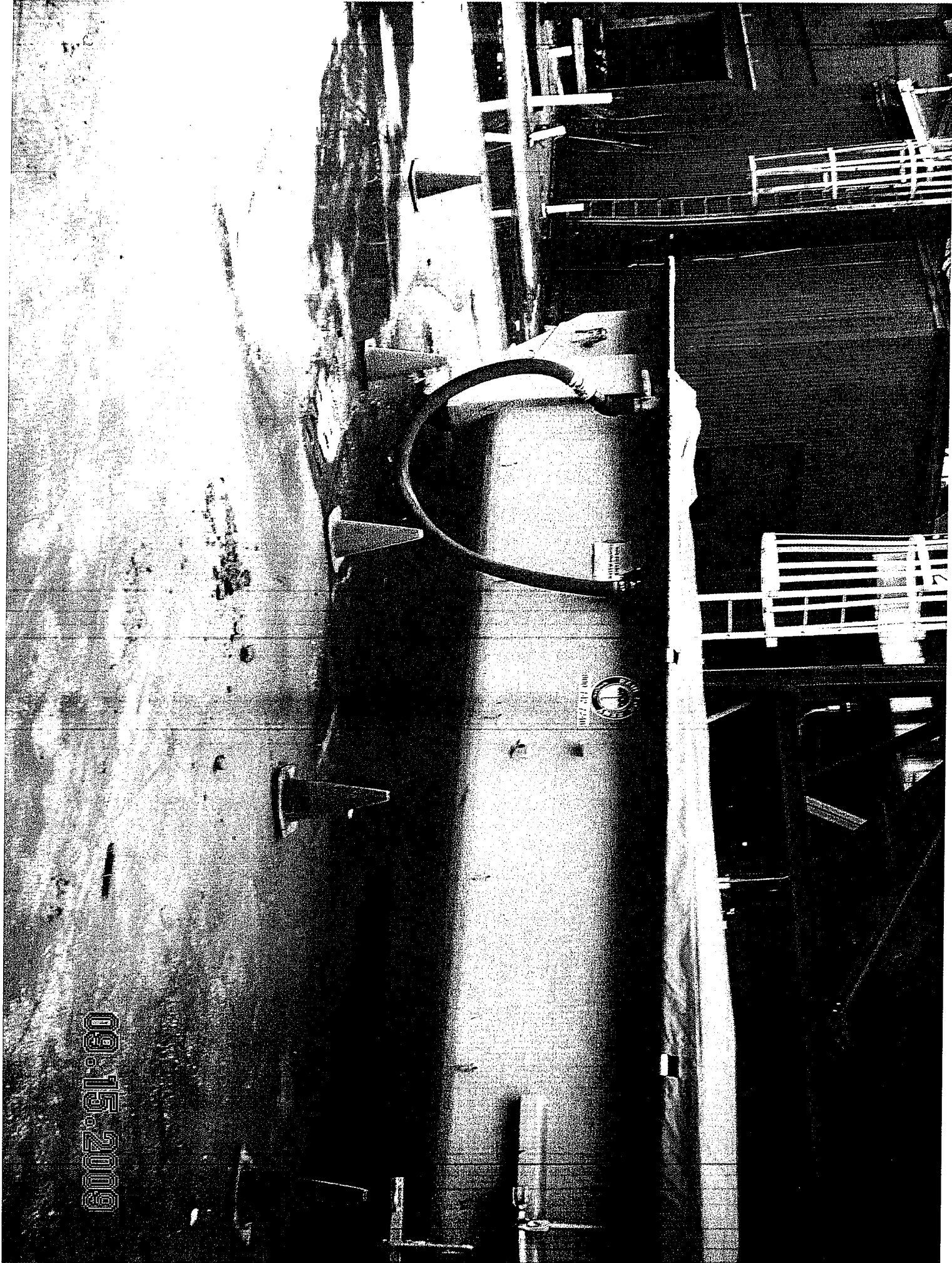
HAZARD DESCRIPTION:

A large blue holding tank with a drain hose was noticed stationed by a storm drain. Employee interviews confirmed that employees are on occasions instructed to drain water into the storm drain late at night on second shift and on midnights. Management officials denied these allegations.

Referral Action	Send Letter	Date Letter Sent	Date Response Due	Response Received (Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory)	Supervisor(s) Assigned
	Inspection Planned?	If Yes, Priority:		If No, Reason:	
	Transfer To (Name):			Transfer Date	
	Transfer To Category:				
Optional Information	Type	ID	Optional Information Value		
Close Referral					
Comments					



09:15:2009



09:15:2009

From: "Minkara Mounir" <minkara_m@mail.chattanooga.gov>
To: <Leetha.Abazid@tn.gov>
Date: 10/8/2009 9:52 AM
Subject: RE: Referral
Attachments: Mueller Investigation.pdf

CC: <mike.kelley@tn.gov>

Good morning Leetha/Mike,

Attached is the result of our investigation. Feel free to contact me if you need further info.

Thanks
Mo

-----Original Message-----

From: Leetha Abazid [mailto:Leetha.Abazid@tn.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 4:29 PM
To: Minkara Mounir
Cc: Mike Kelley
Subject: Fwd: Referral

Good afternoon Mounir,

Please investigate the attached complaint at Mueller. Please advise WPC of your findings.

Thanks,

Leetha Abazid
Environmental Protection Specialist
TDEC-Water Pollution Control
Chattanooga Environmental Field Office
423-634-5710

>>> Christopher McCosh 9/28/2009 11:18 AM >>>
Leetha,

I seen this container with a drain hose next to what looks like a storm drain. Through employee interviews it was revealed that employees are instructed to drain the contents of this container into the drain late at night. I though this might be of some interest to your department.

Christopher T. McCosh
TOSHA Health Compliance Officer
Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
540 McCallie Ave Suite 600
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(423) 634-6405 Office
(423) 468-0387 Cell
(423) 634-8179 Fax
Christopher.McCosh@tn.gov



CITY OF
CHATTANOOGA

Water Quality Program

Engineering Division

Department of Public Works
1250 Market St. Suite 2100
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Memo

Date: 10/8/09

To: Mounir Minkara, Ph.D., P.E.
Water Quality Manager

From: Mitch Underwood
Water Quality Specialist II

Re: Unknown discharge at Mueller Industries

On October 1, 2009, I investigated a complaint about a blue roll off container on Mueller Industries property. The complaint originated from an email sent to Mo Minkara from TDEC. After viewing the photo sent from TDEC, I recognized this structure from a previous industrial inspection conducted on October 29, 2008. Mueller has had this structure onsite for at least two years.

Mueller Industries uses the blue roll off container for water reclamation (non-contact cooling water). Instead of discharging this water to the sanitary sewer system, the water is pumped into rain for rent container. Mueller will use a tank truck to collect the water from the vessel and will disperse this water on their sand and slag landfill located on site. This procedure is mandated the Hamilton County Air Pollution Bureau for dust control purposes.

If any water is released (accidental or incidental) from the stationary site of the container, it will enter a stormwater structure. However, any release will enter a very large detention area and would never leave Mueller's site. As precautionary measure, Mr. Chris Carson (Environmental Health & Safety Manager) instructed me that a lock will be placed the release valve.

Timeline of events:

September 28, 2009,

An email was received (to Mo Minkara) from TDEC concerning a questionable container on Mueller Industries property.

September 29, 2009

I (Mitch Underwood) tried to contact Chris Carson (Environmental Health & Safety Manager) via phone as well as a site visit but Mr. Carson was not available.

September 30, 2009

Mr. Carson finally responded back to phone calls. A site visit could not be established today because Mueller was performing their year end inventory.

October 1, 2009.

A site visit was conducted around 9:30am. I met with Mr. Carson and explained why I was there. After looking at the rain for rent device, I instructed Mr. Carson to provide the WQP office with a written statement either email or mail.

This email was received from Mr. Carson:

From: Chris Carson [ccarson@muellercompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 3:00 PM
To: Underwood Mitch
Subject: Rain for Rent Box

This is a follow up from your inspection today. We have operated the water recirculating system now for 2 years. We only operate it during the late spring, summer and early fall. It was put in solely as a water conservation and pro-environmental system to reduce the use of water, and the generation of waste water. The system can only be discharged through the suction hose by pumping it into our water truck. Each day or as needed our landfill contractor fills our water spray truck with this water and uses it for dust control in the landfill. It has never been intentionally discharged to our stormwater to our knowledge and is not readily able to do so in its current configuration. As an added precaution, I ordered a valve lock for the valve on the suction hose, and will padlock it and only allow our landfill contractor and myself to have the key. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Thanks,

Chris Carson

Environmental/Safety Engineer

Mueller Co.

1401 Mueller Ave.

Chattanooga, TN 37406

(423) 495-1291 phone

(423) 624-6784 fax

ccarson@muellerc ompany.com

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Document and photo from TDEC field office>

Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Referral Report

Thu Oct 8, Thursday 9:22AM

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